AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 2, insert the following heading:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Figure 2, two lightning arrester elements have been associated in parallel, namely a Zener diode lightning arrester element 1 of the type in which a short circuit is established between its terminals when a certain level of voltage surge is attained, and a varistor 3, so that their respective terminals c and c', on the one hand, and d and d', on the other hand, are common.--